

On a Mission from God - Matthew 28:16-20
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

"Go, therefore, and make disciples." These are Jesus final words and marching orders for His church, and therefore is our core mandate. So the questions we should be asking are, what exactly is a disciple? And how do we make them? For the first few months of 2024 this is going to be our quest, to discover the ingredients and recipe for making disciples. You will never get a great chocolate chip cookie from store bought dough. Great cookies begin with a careful understanding of the texture, taste, and feel of the perfect cookie followed by the development of a recipe mixing the necessary ingredients to bake that cookie. And great disciples are made when we are intentional about the ingredients given to us by Jesus and follow His process to make them. In this series we will reveal our church's plan to obey the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations and we will reveal our Discipleship Grid, our recipe for disciple making. This grid will be used for years to come to help every ministry understand their role in disciple making in the hopes that we as a church will continue to build a disciple making culture. And we hope that every member and attender of Genesis will hear the call to become a disciple, a committed follower of Jesus with the ingredients of a true disciple baked into their lives.

This morning we will intentionally look at these marching orders given by Jesus in the Great Commission and realize that there are two clear implications. First of all, for the church, we must realize that this is our central purpose. We are to make disciples. Everything we do must have as its sole goal to accomplish this task. Second, the call for each individual is to hear the call to follow Jesus and live as His disciple. We were created to know God, to experience Him and find our joy in Him alone. The invitation of Jesus to be a disciple is the fulfillment of this purpose for our lives and the only path to true and lasting joy and peace.

But to make sense of this passage we have to recognize the moment, and we can't miss this. Matthew 28 is after the resurrection. These men heard the call to follow Jesus, and they left everything to do it. Jesus called a small band of brothers numbering 12 to Himself, and spent over three years investing in their lives and including them in His ministry. He was their teacher, their rabbi, and they were His disciples. They had put all their hopes in dreams in the Jesus "basket", which in an instant came crashing down as Jesus arrived in Jerusalem for the Passover, was arrested, and then crucified on a Roman cross. Jesus wasn't just dead, He was humiliated, shamed, and to name Jesus now would bring nothing other than derision. Of course, we know this is not the end of the story, as three days later Jesus defeated death, destroyed the grave, and grabbed the keys to Hell. We can't lose the wonder and glory of this moment. A dead man who is now alive told them to meet him at a mountain in Galilee. A dead man who is now alive went before them and is now standing on this mountain. A dead man who is now alive is about to speak to them giving them these marching orders. A dead man who is now alive claims absolute authority over heaven and earth, authority belonging only to God and proclaiming that this mission cannot fail! No wonder they fall at his feet and worship, and no wonder some of them are cautious. We can't fully understand Jesus call to follow until we view this call through the lense of the Gospel, and to be sure, whatever it means to be a disciple, it begins with our looking to the glory of what Jesus accomplished on our behalf as the springboard. In this context Jesus looks to His disciples and tells them that they are to, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

The language here is interesting. Look back at these words. How many verbs do you see? You probably think you are counting four verbs, but in the original Greek there is actually just one verb, the Greek word *matheteusate*, which we translate "make disciples". The verb is in the imperative voice, meaning it is a command that the hearer is to begin immediately. The

words translated “Go, baptize, and teach” in this text are actually participles, a part of speech that is something like a verbal adjective or noun (in English these words usually end with “ing”). They modify or explain the relationship of the subject to the verb. In this case, the verb “make disciples” is accomplished as those who are His disciples go into the world and make the Gospel known. The result is that people believe and we are to baptize them, making their faith public and announcing them as new disciples, and we are to teach them to obey and observe all that Jesus commanded, living holy and obedient lives. But the outcome of any true discipleship is that they join the mission, they become part of those who are “going”, meaning the loop will continue. And the effort to make disciples will reach to all the nations. This is our call, our task. And this is our mission as a church.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Psalm 75 & 76	Psalm 77 & 78	Psalm 79 & 80	Psalm 81 & 82	Psalm 83 & 84	Psalm 85 & 86	Psalm 87 & 88

**Note - giving two chapters a day this week to make up for the snow day.*

Reading from this past week: Matthew 28

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Matthew 4:17-22

Family Worship

Song - *You've Already Won*

https://youtu.be/bJWc4rP-D8c?si=uavplphVe-P_MjWA

Gospel Project

Unit: The Church Begins

Story: The Holy Spirit Came

Big Picture Question: How does the Holy Spirit help Christians?

Answer: The Holy Spirit comforts us, shows us our sin, and guides us as we live for God's glory

Scripture: Acts 2

New City Catechism

Question 4: How and why did God create us?

Answer: God created us male and female in his own image to glorify him.

Verse: Genesis 1:27

Scripture

Matthew 28:16-20

- How do you think you would have responded if you saw the risen Jesus on that mountain? Would your first response be worship or hesitation and doubt?
- What do Jesus statements that He has all authority on heaven and earth, and that he will be with us always tell us about the nature of our mission?
- How does a person become a disciple of Jesus? What does it mean to be a disciple?
- How do Jesus words shape the mission of His church? What does it mean for a church to make disciples?

Prayer

*Pray that we would be a disciple making church, and that you would follow Jesus as an authentic disciple

*Pray for racism and issues of justice in our culture.